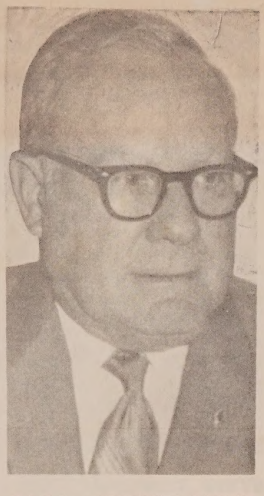
REELECT ROY L. ALBRIGHT, W5EYB

During its Friday, Sept. 18, 1970 meeting, the San Antonio Radio Club voted strong endorsement of the candidacy for reelection of ROY L. ALBRIGHT, W5EYB, as Director, West Gulf Division, ARRL.

Upon noting that similar enthusiastic measures of support have been offered by the San Antonio Repeater Organization, the local chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and many other groups in Texas and Oklahoma, the editor of the San Antonio Radio Club Bulletin, Dean Davis, W5BGE, interviewed Mr. Albright. It is believed the results of that interview are of interest, and will provide considerable insight into his character, his work as our Division Director the past two years, especially for those ARRL members who have not met him in person, and his plans for the future. Portions of that interview follow:



ROY L. ALBRIGHT, W5EYB

Director of West Gulf Division, ARRL

Q—(Dean Davis): Roy, why do you seek reelection to the Board of Directors?

A—(Roy Albright): Dean, I have devoted a large portion of my time during this past two years in office to an in-depth study of the problems of amateur radio, and to the mechanics of operations of the ARRL organization. I believe this study, and the mass of information accumulated by numerous personal contacts, provides me with the information I need to attempt a logical and sound approach to the solution of some of our problems.

Q—What are the problems?

A—First, and foremost, we need to develop an improved emergency communications system. Recent disasters in this area, the Lubbock tornado and hurricane Celia, demonstrated we have tremendous capacity to perform a great public service during disasters, but they also show we need far greater coordination of effort for maximum utilization of this capacity. We need to develop a portable Repeater package, coupled with an effective inter-city VHF-FM link to overcome skip and QRN during disaster operations. Also, we need to organize and use our resources of highly trained CW operators, particularly for handling of health and welfare traffic during emergencies. In addition, we must find a solution for overcrowding in the upper reaches of 75 and 40 meter fone bands.

Second, we need to seek greater, more meaningful participation by our younger amateurs in all our group activities such as clubs, emergency operation, League offices, etc. Too, the problem of attracting youngsters into amateur radio is a matter of concern.

We need a solution for the terrific jams on 20 meters. This is a terrible situation. I believe we can solve it, but it will require a bold new approach.

Q—Do you feel you have solutions for these problems?

A—Each of them is very complex. However, I intend to attack them. With the help of our more thoughtful and experienced ARRL members, and the guidance of my Assistant Directors I believe we can solve some, and alleviate others. It has often been said that once we recognize the scope of a task, the problem is half solved. For this reason I believe we are now ready to organize for the final assault.

Q—How have you gone about collecting data you need?

A—During this term in office I have travelled over 20,000 miles in the Division talking to ARRL members, visiting 36 clubs and attending numerous hamfests and conventions. My correspondence with members now exceeds 12,000 letters. One of the most illuminating and fruitful exchanges of communication was our open forum at the Orange convention this year. In return, I publish newsletters to all ARRL members as often as finances permit, in order to keep the membership as well informed as possible on current events affecting amateurs.

Q—We know that Directors rereceive no salary from the League. Are you reimbursed for other expenses?

A—Each Director receives an administrative allowance for mileage, postage stamps, etc., that is helpful, but inadequate.

Q—In addition to being a member of the full Board, do you have any other ARRL duties or responsibilities?

A—I am chairman of the Membership and Publications Committee and am a member of the special committee to form an ARRL Foundation, where donors can provide funds and stipulate its use, for such worthwhile activities as scholarships for deserving young amateurs, for research, etc.

Q—Would you care to mention your personal interests in amateur radio?

A—I like to consider myself a balanced amateur. I operate both fone and CW, all bands, 10 thru 80, and 2 meter FM mobile. Also, if I ever get time, I intend to mount the TR-4 in the old Dodge. For years I was an avid DX hound. The thrill of being DX as F7AG, KA2RA, W5EYB/KG6, and ET2US was a never to be forgotten experience. I must confess though that my prime interest is experimental work. I still build things. When the new exams were published I obtained my Extra Class license. It wasn't as difficult as I had expected.

Q—Do you feel you have an accomplishment of considerable magnitude during this term of office?

A—Dean, I honestly believe my ability to work effectively with the other board members is amply demonstrated in the minutes of the meetings, as published in QST. I would say my aggressiveness in getting the League's VHF-FM Repeater proposals published in QST prior to submission to FCC is a major accomplishment in that it established a precedent for the League to seek advice from the field before final adoption of policy.

Q—Do you have any ideas, concerning the League or the membership you care to express?

A—I would like to express my deep appreciation to the hundreds who have given me words of advice, and heartfelt thanks to our fine SCM's and SEC's for their cooperation. My greatest reward has been the opportunity to meet so many fine people. The warm welcome given Mrs. Albright and me everywhere we've visited has been most gratifying.

About the League—I have two very strong opinions. One is that except in case of extreme urgency the League ought first to seek advice from the members before presenting petitions to the FCC which would result in change of regulations. The other is that no elected official should hold office more than seven years. We are constantly in need of new ideas and a mixture of experience and youth is a way to obtain that goal.

With respect to the membership at large, I believe we are sometimes too reluctant to speak out. Too often vicious and unfounded rumors are allowed to go unchallenged when they can be squelched by reference to facts obtained through QST or by letter to the League.

Thank you, Mr. Albright. Ladies and gentlemen, this is Dean Davis, W5BGE, Editor of the San Antonio Radio Club Bulletin, speaking to you from the Alamo City, host for the mid-winter meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society. 73.

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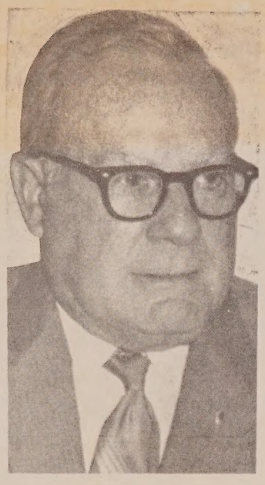

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This bulletin sponsored by the San Antonio Radio Club and other interested Amateurs in the San Antonio area.

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